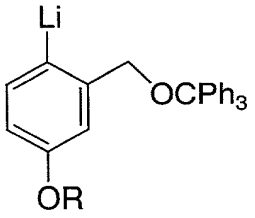
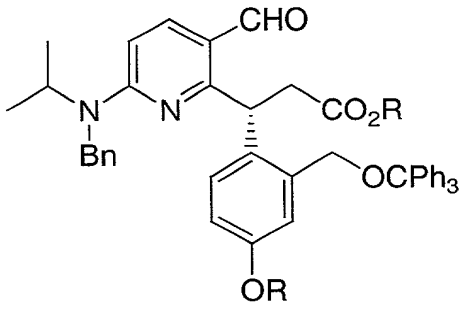
with a chiral auxiliary (S,S)-pseudoephedrine followed by treatment with an aryllithium compound

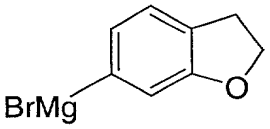


in toluene or tetrahydrofuran or a mixture thereof at a temperature range of about -80°C to about 0°C to give a conjugate adduct of Formula IIa,

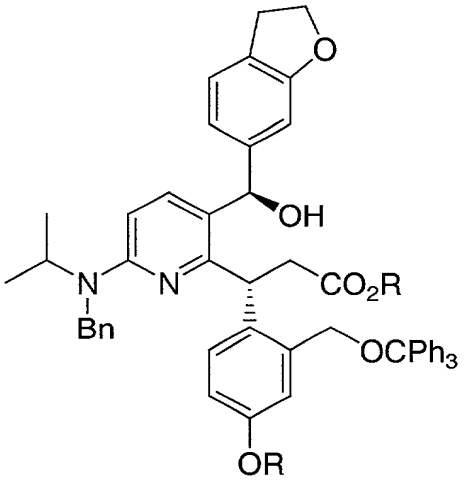


IIa

(2) reacting the conjugate adduct of Formula IIa with

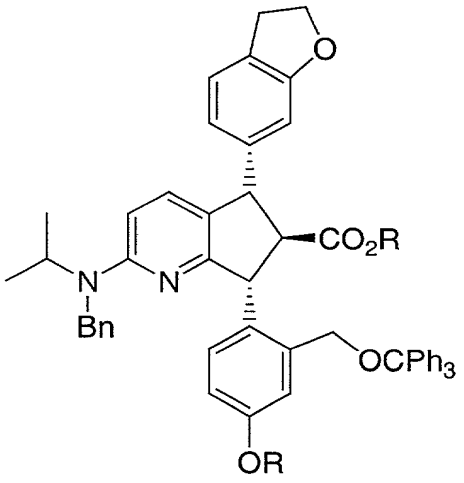


at a temperature range of about -80°C to about 30°C to give a Grignard addition product of Formula IIIa,



IIIa

(3) adding phosphoramide reagent to a mixture of the Grignard addition product of Formula IIIa in the presence of tetrahydorfuran or a mixture of tetrahydrofuran and toluene, and a base at a temperature range of about -80°C to about 30°C to produce a cyclized compound of Formula IV, and



IV

(4) removing protecting groups on the cyclized compound of Formula IV to give the desired compound of Formula Ia.

26. The process of Claim 25, wherein the phosphoramide reagent is
N,N,N,N-tetramethylphosphorodiamidic chloride,
N,N,N,N-tetramethylphosphorodiamidic bromide,
N,N,N,N- tetraethylphosphorodiamidic chloride,
N,N,N,N-tetraethylphosphorodiamidic bromide,
N,N,N,N-tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidic chloride,
N,N,N,N-tetraisopropylphosphorodiamidic bromide,
N,N,N,N-tetraphenylphosphorodiamidic chloride, or
N,N,N,N-tetraphenylphosphorodiamidic bromide.

27. The process of Claim 26, wherein the base is sodium hexamethyldisilazide which is present in amounts between about 1 equivalent and about 6 equivalents relative to the amount of the phosphoramide reagent.

28. The process of Claim 27, which further comprises the steps of:

(a) deprotecting the cyclized compound of Formula IV by removing protecting groups with acid at a temperature range of about 0°C to about 25°C;

(b) crystallizing the deprotected compound as benzylamine salt; and

(c) hydrogenating the deprotected compound in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst and a protic solvent at a temperature range of about 25°C to about 40°C.

29. The process of Claim 28, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is Pd/C.

30. The process of Claim 29, wherein the protic solvent is selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6) alcohol, H_2O and a mixture thereof.